Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0018] at page 2 of the published patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

> [1] DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence of a mutated TipA gene promoter where a mutation is introduced into a -10 region sequence of a TipA gene promoter, the mutated TipA gene promoter capable of thiostrepton-independent and constitutive expression of a gene located downstream thereof;
> [2] The DNA of [1], wherein the mutation in the -10 region sequence is a mutation of a CAGCGT sequence to a TATAAT sequence;
> [3] The DNA of [2], having a nucleotide sequence represented by ~~SEQ ID NO: 107;~~ **SEQ ID NO: 169 or SEQ ID NO: 170.**

Please replace paragraph [0045] at page 5 of the published patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

> The present invention further encompasses an expression vector comprising a Rep gene, a double-stranded origin (DSO), and a single-stranded origin (SSO) as a DNA region necessary for the rolling circle mode of replication obtained from the plasmid and further comprising a promoter sequence, a ribosome-binding site sequence located downstream of the promoter sequence, and a multiple-cloning site sequence capable of incorporating a foreign gene therein, located downstream of the ribosome-binding site sequence. The expression vector may further contain a foreign gene and a transcription termination sequence. The DNA sequence having promoter activity, the foreign gene, and the transcription termination sequence constitute an expression cassette. The promoter sequence used here includes a promoter capable of inducer (such as a drug)-inducible expression of a foreign gene introduced downstream thereof and a promoter capable of inducer-independent and constitutive expression of a foreign gene. Examples of the former promoter capable of inducible expression of a foreign gene include a TipA gene promoter that inducibly expresses a foreign gene located downstream thereof in the presence of thiostrepton. The vector of the present invention may

comprise a TipA gene encoding a TipA protein and an appropriate promoter inducing the expression of the TipA gene, such as a ThcA gene promoter. The TipA gene and the promoter for the expression of the TipA gene constitute an inducer cassette. When a host cell is a bacterium belonging to the genus Rhodococcus, a thiostrepton resistance gene or the like that imparts resistance to thiostrepton is incorporated into the vector because the bacterium is sensitive to thiostrepton. In addition, the TipA gene promoter may be any of those obtained by modifying the sequence of the TipA gene promoter, such as a TipA-LG10 promoter. The sequence of **a mutant** ~~the~~ TipA gene promoter is shown **as SEQ ID NO: 170** in FIG. 12.

Please replace paragraph [0072] at page 8 of the published patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 12 is a diagram showing a **mutant** TipA gene promoter sequence ~~(SEQ ID NO: 107)~~ **(SEQ ID NO: 170)**;

Please replace paragraph [0123] at page 12 of the published patent application with the following rewritten paragraph:

Primers represented by SEQ ID NOs: 21 and 37 in the sequence listing were used to perform amplification by PCR with the plasmid pHN170 as a template. As a result, a hybrid promoter (hereinafter, indicated by a TipA-LG10 promoter; indicated by TipA-LG10p in the drawings) consisting of the TipA gene promoter and the ribosome-binding site derived from the lambda phage gene 10 was obtained. This 0.2-kb DNA fragment was doubly digested with restriction enzymes BsrGI and NcoI and subcloned into the BsrGI and NcoI sites of the pHN170. Consequently, a plasmid containing the PIP gene placed under the control of the TipA-LG10 promoter was constructed and designated as pHN171. FIG. 12 shows ~~the~~ **a mutant** TipA promoter sequence **(SEQ ID NO: 170)**, and FIG. 13 shows the modification of the ribosome-binding site (RBS) sequence for altering the **mutant** TipA promoter **(SEQ ID NO: 170)** into the TipA-LG10 promoter **(SEQ ID NO: 169)**.